

# Court Upholds Congregation Right to Choose Own Pastor

TR 5C MAY 13 1956

The right of a church congregation to by-pass its pulpit committee and select a minister of its own choice has been upheld in a ruling by Superior Judge Richard H. Chamberlain. by a group of members, including Eugene P. Lasartemay, who contended that the selection of the pastor was invalid because he was not recommended by the pulpit committee. The court noted that the

The ruling was in favor of Beth Eden Baptist Church, 10th and Magnolia Streets, which on January 4 at the annual business meeting of the church selected the Rev. A. C. Dones as pastor. The vote was 218 to 81 according to Atty. George W. Norris who represented the congregation.

The court action was brought

pulpit committee, appointed August 24, 1955, and discharged November 23, had made no recommendation to the congregation.

# Beth Eden Church

TR 5C FEB 19 1961  
To Honor Pastor

The congregation of Beth Eden Baptist Church, 10th and Magnolia Streets, will honor its pastor at a 3 p.m. service today.

The Rev. and Mrs. A. C. Dones are being recognized on the fifth anniversary as spiritual leaders of the church. The Rev. Dr. Edward Stovall of the Progressive Baptist Church, Berkeley, will be the speaker. The Rev. Mr. Dones is vice president of the Baptist Ministers' Union of the East-bay.

# 2 Oakland Pastors

FEB 28 1971

## Leaving Pulpits

Two Oakland pastors will retire today.

The Rev. Dr. Henry George Hartner, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, 1431 17th Ave., for the past 13 years, will preach his farewell sermon at 11 a.m.

He has been a minister for 48 years. He was executive secretary of the California-Nevada District of the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church from 1954 to 1958. He had served pastorates in Nebraska and Colorado before coming to California in 1954.

The congregation will honor Dr. and Mrs. Hartner at a special 4 p.m. program today. It will be followed by a dinner. The couple will live in

San Leandro following retirement.

The Rev. Dr. Alvin Chester Dones, pastor of Beth Eden Baptist Church, 10th and Magnolia Streets, for 15 years, retires today after 50 years in the ministry.

"Well Done" services are scheduled for 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. today. A retirement banquet is scheduled for next Friday at the Berkeley House, Berkeley. More than 500 persons are expected to attend. The Rev. M. C. Williams of Denver will be the speaker.

Dr. and Mrs. Dones will live in Berkeley following retirement. The Rev. Gillette James, 35, will succeed Dr. Dones as pastor of the 800-member congregation.

**APR 3 1979**  
**Rev. Alvin C. Dones**

~~Oakland—The Rev. Alvin C. Dones was known as a father to ministers.~~

With 50 years experience in the ministry, other religious leaders looked to him for guidance.

"In this day when ministers are urged to be more involved with the community, Rev. Dones' strength was that he was someone other ministers could confide in," said the Rev. Gil-

lette O. James, Dones' successor at Beth Eden Baptist Church here.

Dones, 86, died Friday in Pasadena where he had lived the past two years with his wife and a daughter. He was pastor of Beth Eden from 1956 until he retired in 1971.

Born in Marshall, Tex., Dones came to Oakland in 1951 after he had retired from a congregation in Denver, Colo. But members of the Beth Eden congregation called him out of retirement when their pastor died.

When Dones finally retired from Beth Eden, he was asked to be the interim minister for a year at Mount Zion Baptist Church here.

"Despite his age, people knew the Rev. Dones could give them the spiritual guidance that a younger, more inexperienced person couldn't," James said.

"There was just something about his presence that made you know he was a man of God."